

ARIZONA SILVER BELT.

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THE MINING FIELD.

News from Every Quarter of Arizona.
General Mining Notes.

A SEASON OF GREAT ACTIVITY.

AN ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK.

Local mining news is of a very encouraging nature this week. The visit of Henry A. Fry and Joseph Wright of Philadelphia, resulted in the consummation of an important deal, involving the purchase of the Stewart, Pascoe & Dickson group of ten copper claims by the Donnellan Copper company, and the entry of a new company composed of eastern capitalists and mining men well known and highly rated locally, to operate patented mines adjacent to the United Globe properties. The Old Dominion Copper Mining and Smelting company is pushing work on their principal mines adjoining Globe, and making a very satisfactory output of copper. They are also building roads and doing other preliminary work preparatory to the development of their Continental mines, and claims adjacent, on Pinto creek. The United Globe mines, while working but a small force, are directing their efforts toward enlarged operations after the beginning of the new year. They are now putting in a Worthington pump, of large capacity, in the Hoosier shaft, which will drain the mines and admit of development to a greater depth. A new furnace of 250 tons capacity will be installed at the smelter next month, and the company will then be prepared to prosecute development work vigorously and largely increase their output of copper next year. A deterrent influence upon the production of copper in this district the present year has been the old contracts by which the two leading companies were bound, disposing of their output at a price very much below current quotations. We understand that these contracts expire on January 1, 1900.

COPPER HILL MINES.

An enterprise developed this week which may mean much to the future of Globe. N. S. Berry, J. Windmiller and Chauncey Gunn, associated with New York parties of large means, have secured a lease and bond on the patented claims—the Copper Hill, Black Hawk and Defiance—which adjoin the United Globe property on the east. These claims were patented in 1882, since which time no work has been done upon them, but ore is developed, said to represent a value of \$25,000 or more. The claims are owned by the Arizona Commercial company, of New York, of which S. W. Fay is president. The intention is to extract and ship the rich surface ores, and to develop the property. A shaft is to be sunk on the contact to a depth of several hundred feet. Work was begun yesterday morning, and in a short time a force of thirty men will be employed. Chauncey Gunn will have charge of the mine work as foreman and J. Windmiller will look after the business end of the enterprise.

THE DONNELLAN COPPER CO.

The Stewart, Pascoe and Dickson group of ten copper claims, situated in Gold gulch, on the slope of Pinto creek, 1 1/2 miles west of Globe, passed to the Donnellan Copper company on Monday, Mr. Henry A. Fry conducting the negotiations for the company. The price paid is a large one, but fully warranted by the value of the property. The principal purchasers are Henry A. Fry, Charles E. Coloney and Ernest L. Tustin, all of Philadelphia. The Donnellan company also owns a number of claims on the Diamond II contact, which they have been developing for several months under the direction of John C. Donnellan, superintendent for the company. The purchasers are also associated in the Black Warrior Copper company. The Donnellan company will begin work immediately on their newly-acquired property, which is already fairly well developed, and the ore will be blocked out preparatory to erecting reduction works in the near future. Mr. Fry was accompanied on his visit to Globe by Mr. Joseph Wright, of Philadelphia, who is also a stockholder in the Donnellan and Black Warrior companies, and after a thorough examination of the two properties both gentlemen expressed themselves well satisfied. The visitors took their departure on Tuesday morning, via Clifton, for Philadelphia. Mr. Donnellan, who accompanied them as far as Clifton, will return to Globe in a few days and will put a force of men to work on the Gold gulch property.

A RECENT PURCHASE.

Porter W. Fleming, Richard Fleming and W. D. Fisk have bought a group of claims on the north fork of Mineral creek, near the Cole & Goodwin claims, and have put men to work on them.

Territorial and General Mining.

Mr. Rosenberg, a mining man and capitalist of New York city, is in Prescott for the purpose of buying an important mining property on Big Bug.

James Hart, a Colorado mining man, is in the southern part of the territory in quest of copper properties. He is examining the mines of the Dragon section.

The factions of the Cobre Grande Mining company are still warring. Two sets of officers for that much-advertised company were elected one evening of last week in Phoenix.

The laboratory of the Val Verde Copper company, Yavapai county, was destroyed by fire two weeks ago. It is being rebuilt, however, and will be ready for business in a few days.

S. M. Aguirre, special deputy collector of customs at Nogales, has resigned his position to become manager for the Cobre Grande Copper company.

It is said the Copper Queen company will close down their works at Bisbee early next month in order to put in more extensive machinery to increase their smelting capacity.

W. W. Hill, a leading mining man and metallurgist, died at his home in Phoenix last week, the result of copper poisoning contracted several years ago while acting as master mechanic for the United Verde, at Jerome.

E. K. Alexandrew a mining man of Los Angeles, in company with Peter Walters, discoverer of the Gold Cross mine, have arrived in Yuma, having made the trip from Needles in a small boat. The object of the trip was to examine some copper properties along the course of the Colorado river.

John S. Jones is making preparations to start up his Little Jessie mine, in Yavapai county. He is also taking milling ore from the Union mine, one of the Little Jessie group. He has about 200 tons of excellent ore on the dump ready for shipment.

Chicago people have the Cunningham Pass copper mines, in Yuma county, about sixty miles west of Congress, under bond and have 24 men engaged in sinking and general development and are taking out large quantities of high-grade shipping ore. This is said to be the largest body of ore yet found in Arizona, the ledge averaging 80 feet in width and cropping out for a distance of two miles. Considerable depth has been attained at several places on the ledge, revealing a high-grade ore.

Sheriff Munds of Yavapai county, as a diversion from chasing murderers, dips into mining occasionally, and judging from the following from the Prospector, the intrepid officer is almost as successful in the pursuit of hidden treasure as he is in the chase after bad men: "Sheriff Munds Tuesday received a check for \$781.25, one-fourth payment of his interest in one of the Cliff group claims, Verde district. The balance is to be paid within six months at the rate of the above size check every sixty days."

The Detroit Copper company, of Morenci, who has been making extensive additions and improvements to their plant during the past year, will soon be in position for a very large production of copper. Their new concentrating plant of 600 tons capacity will be ready to start about the first of the coming year. The company is also putting in a new battery of boilers at the pumping station on the San Francisco river, six miles from the works, to supply the new concentrator. The company expects to use gas engines exclusively to generate power for the reduction works. The construction of the railroad from Guthrie to Morenci is now well under way, and it is expected will be completed soon after the first of the year.

Tom Newcomb has returned to Tucson from his Mineral Hill mines, in Santa Cruz county. This is an old group of mines which were worked in years for gold and silver alone, about 700 feet of work having been done. They have remained idle for a number of years, until two years ago, when Mr. Newcomb relocated them. Shortly afterward a mining shark came along and succeeded in "tying" them up until last August, when the bond expired, since which time the mines have been developed with encouraging results. The mines show up well in gold, silver and copper, the latter predominating, and with the amount of development work now done, and that in course of prosecution, southern Arizona will no doubt soon have another good mine in the Newcomb group.

The gold output of California for the year 1899 is estimated at \$16,000,000.

The International Mining Congress at Paris will devote June 18 to 23, 1900, to mining and metallurgy.

Large deposits of merchantable mica are said to have been uncovered in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

John A. Qualey, president of the Arizona Copper Smelting company, has returned to his works at Safford. He has been as far east as New York.

Frank Perley, well and favorably known in Tombstone during the early 80's, is now superintendent for the Vermont and Arizona company, whose mines are in the Dragon mountains.

It is estimated that about \$10,000,000 in gold have been produced in the world since the discovery of America, of which sum more than one-half has been produced since 1860 and one-fourth since 1885.

Eugene Tuller informs the Florence Tribune that he has a fine prospect at Skinnerville, between Globe and Riverside, that promises to be a world-beater. An 18-foot cut shows a body of copper ore which will average 24 per cent. He offers to deed a third interest to any one who will sink 50 feet on the property.

James Douglas informs the Prescott Prospector that the mill at the Senator is running steadily; that the latest work is the sinking of an 80-foot winze below the 600-foot tunnel level with satisfactory results. The Senator is the property of Phelps, Dodge & Co.

Yavapai county has a promising mine in the Little Annie, the property of DeWitt and Olds, situated on Copper Basin divide, about eight miles west of Prescott. There is about 250 feet of development on the claim and assays have been gotten of 80 per cent copper, 88 per cent gold and some silver. A Prescott paper says the ore is very rich.

Machinery for the Yucca Cyanide, Mining and Milling company, Cedar district, Mohave county, has arrived at Kingman and is being transported to the San Francisco mine, where it will be erected and running within 60 days. The San Francisco has been a shipper of high-grade gold ore for some time and it is thought that with good milling facilities the mine will develop into an excellent producer.

A dispatch from San Diego, Calif., of November 10, says Judge Torrance has authorized Receiver Trumbo, of the Golden Cross mines, at Hedges, 18 miles west of Yuma, to erect a cyanide plant in connection with the works, with a capacity of 300 tons per day. According to evidence it was shown that there 600,000 tons of tailings available for treatment, and according to an analysis made they will average \$2.65 per ton. The cost of treatment will not be more than 65 cents per ton.

The International Mining Congress, says the Mining and Scientific Press, held its first session at Denver, Colo., in 1897; its second session was held at Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1898; it adjourned to meet at Milwaukee in June, 1899, but no meeting was held. Irving Mahon, secretary of the executive committee, says an official call will be issued for the session of 1900 at Milwaukee, to begin June 19 and last four days.

Mr. Atkinson, of Iron Springs, who owns two claims in the new platinum district, near Supai, 20 miles south of Cataract canyon, and north of Williams, informs the Prescott Courier that the new town started at the mines is called Plattsville, and that there are now 400 people on the ground. Plattsville is 75 miles from Williams. The most direct route from Prescott to Plattsville is via Ash Fork. Joe Owens, owner of the lake, is now en route to Plattsville with \$250 worth of provisions to start a boarding house. Mr. Atkinson has a letter from Mr. Shornack, now in Los Angeles, who states that he has had chemical tests from ores across the entire stratum made with the following result: Aluminum, 32 per cent; platinum, \$180.50, and \$2.85 gold.

Copper Mountain district, near Adonde, Yuma county, promises to substantiate all that has been claimed for it for the past three years. Speaking of Charles Baker's claims, in that district, the Yuma Sun says a depth of 30 feet has been reached on one of them and the result is very encouraging. The ledge, which was 3 feet on the surface, is gradually widening and becoming more solid. The ore runs high in gold and copper. There are about 30 tons of ore on the dump, and arrangements are being perfected to commence shipping to El Paso immediately. If the smelter returns are as good as anticipated the force of men will be increased and development will be commenced on a number of other claims in the district, among which are some very promising prospects.

The Colorado river on both the California and Arizona sides, below Needles for 100 miles is now alive with prospectors, numbering at least ten where heretofore there has been one, says Needles Eye. More development work has been done in this section of the country during the last six months than ever before, with the probability that the coming winter will see some productive mines in operation. Considerable outside capital has been interested and the progress of the work only fulfills the prophecy of old prospectors that the country is rich in mineral. Gold and copper properties are now being searched for by numerous representatives of capital, and it is safe to say that more mines will be heard from in the coming season.

The Ash Peak district, 25 miles east of Solomonville, was visited by J. B. Adams and A. G. Smith. They went to look at the Commerce mine, owned by Tong and Rogers, in speaking of which Mr. Adams said to the Bulletin man that it was the biggest showing on the surface he ever saw, which bears out the statement made by other parties who have visited this property. The ledge, which is visible for miles, is 30 feet wide on the surface. On the side of the mountain just under the ledge a shaft has been sunk 15 feet. About fifty feet to the south an open cut is being run into the ledge. All of the work done has been in rich ore, and a shipment will be made this week or next from Solomonville. The ore will be sent to the El Paso smelter.

The ore is very rich, one assay giving returns of 1,665 ounces silver and 11 ounces in gold. At present six men are at work on the Commerce. A rock house 15x37 feet has been erected, which will be used as winter quarters. A blacksmith shop has also been built. Mr. Smith is interested in several claims in the Ash Peak district and will shortly leave for Denver, where he will interest capital in the development of the new mining district. Philip Bros. and party will soon begin active development on the Barbara Ann and Little Oille, where they have a working lease. George Cluff and Wiley Jones are interested in the Great Western and will commence work on them in a few days.

Engineer G. G. McNamara gives the Florence Tribune the following information in regard to Pioneer mining district, situate between Mineral Hill and Box Canyon: "Mr. E. T. Smith and myself have secured by purchase and located fourteen claims, aggregating over 500 feet of development work in the way of shafts, tunnels, drifts, etc. In this district there is one vein fully 100 feet wide cutting the country from northwest to southeast and traceable by the croppings for over two miles. This vein carries copper in sulphurets and will average from 4 per cent to 6 per cent with about \$10 in gold and silver. This ore can be readily concentrated 20 to 30 into one. I have not yet made assays of the concentrates, but if it holds its values it can be readily seen that the property can be made to pay from the start. We have also a group of five claims carrying carbonates of lead and galena. These veins are from 6 to 20 feet wide and give by fire assay from 10 per cent to 60 per cent lead with a small value in gold and silver. But in my judgment the best property in the district is a discovery made by myself and known as the Minta Morgan. Breaking a piece of ordinary looking float that proved to be almost pure chalcopryite, led to this discovery, and with the aid of J. H. Brown the vein was soon found and proved to be fully 30 feet wide. Average samples of the croppings yielded by assay, copper 21.80 per cent, gold 1.60 ounces, silver 9.50 ounces, making a total value of \$17.21 per ton. A force of men will be put to work at once on this claim and the Minta Morgan will undoubtedly prove a pay mine from the start. Throughout this section there is also considerable gold-bearing quartz which, however, is not free milling but amenable to cyanide treatment. There was a great rush to this district and considerable development was done during the halcyon days of the Silver King, 15 or 20 years ago. On the decline of silver, work was discontinued, and indeed many of the properties were abandoned. In these days little attention was paid to gold quartz in Pioneer district, unless it was free milling. Unfortunately the gold-bearing rock will not plate 20 per cent of its value. You see, 15 years ago very little was known about the cyanide treatment; in fact, it has only been in the last four or five years that it has been successfully operated. Now ores of the character that I have found in abundance will yield from 30 per cent to 85 per cent of their values by this treatment and the extraction should not cost to exceed \$2 per ton. Pioneer district, in my opinion, is destined in the near future to be classed among the gold and copper producers of Arizona."

The Jarilla placers up to the present have yielded about \$3,000 in free gold, says the Albuquerque Citizen. The practical working of these placers did not begin until the first of October. Some thirty men operating dry washers are now cleaning up from \$200 to \$300 per day.

In Prescott there are a few specimens of ore from a mine owned by Mr. Collins and partner, near the Mudhole mine, on Lynx creek. The Collins mine has 175 feet of development work; the tunnel cuts the hill at a depth of 300 feet, and ore taken from the mine has far more than paid for all development work. The ore carries \$35 gold and \$10 silver per ton. There is from 10 to 12 inches of this ore and 2 feet more of lower grade ore, which concentrates four into one. Three tons of these second-grade concentrates yielded 850 per ton. Ore from the mine run in a local mill plated \$15 a ton. When Mr. Collins came to town a few days ago he brought with him a bar of gold worth \$180, taken from ore from the Collins mine. The Collins can already be classed as a producing mine, with all the earmarks of a bonanza. About a year ago Mr. Collins, a miner, was sick in the hospital in Prescott, with prospects about as blue as possible. Today he has a competency and is on the high road to fortune. Such occurrences are common in a mining section like this, but are very uncommon in all but mining regions.

Charles Burkes has arrived in Prescott from the Cataract creek country, the scene of the platinum country. In an interview with a reporter for the Journal-Miner he stated that when he left there over 300 men were on the ground, and that every available foot open for location was taken up. Mr. Burkes says, in speaking of the reports in general circulation as to the extent of the platinum strata and the wealth of the same, that there is no doubt whatever but the ore beds are simply inexhaustible and bonafide assays give absolutely accurate figures. He cites the returns received by the Owens brothers, who took a sample from each of the seventeen claims owned by them, that were lumped together, and \$301.5 per ton in platinum was shown. Besides these values gold and aluminum also exists. Capitalists from every section of the country are on the ground, while mining experts likewise were coming in in great numbers. The Owens brothers were offered \$119,000 for their ground, on a short-time option, but refused. Other transactions were also pending. The town of Williams is said to be simply depopulated, and the route of travel from that place to the various locations is swarmed with every imaginary conveyance. The distance is forty miles from Williams to the principal claims.

Of the \$10,000,000,000 worth of gold produced in the world since the discovery of America, more than one-half has been produced since 1860 and more than one-fourth since 1885. These facts regarding the gold production of the world are presented by compilations of the treasury bureau of statistics and the temporary suspension of gold mining in South Africa and its possible effect upon the gold supply of the world. The compilation when summarized shows that the total of gold production from 1493 to and including the estimate for 1899 amounts to \$9,833,059,000. The following table shows the gold product by centuries and fractions of centuries from 1493 to the close of 1899. The estimate of the director of the mint for the year 1899 was \$350,000,000, and deducting \$25,000,000 for the suspension of work in the Transvaal during the closing quarter of the year, would put the 1899 production at \$325,000,000. The statement of the world's gold production for the period 1493-1899 is as follows:

	Production.	Avg. annual production.
1493-1500	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 4,545,454
1501-1600	2,243,000,000	4,486,000
1601-1700	1,336,800,000	12,628,000
1701-1800	2,120,000,000	15,750,000
Average 1601-1800	1,233,133,333	12,331,333
Decade 1871-1880	1,150,000,000	115,000,000
Decade 1881-1890	1,000,000,000	100,000,000
Est. 1891-1899	1,807,977,000	200,775,222
Total	\$9,833,059,000	

An examination of the above table and the average for each of the periods stated indicates the rapid increase in production during recent years. During the 308 years from 1493 to and including 1800 the average annual production was \$12,394,937, and during the period 1801-1899 the average annual production was \$130,955,015, or more than ten times the average of the earlier period. Coming down to still later years, the period 1891-1899 shows an annual average of \$204,773,555, and the single year 1899, by conservative estimates, \$225,000,000. Regarding the effect of the suspension of gold production in the Transvaal, a statement of the amount of gold produced from the mines of that country, and beside it another showing the amount produced in other parts of the world, gives an opportunity to determine the probable effect.

An interview had with Senator W. A. Clark of Montana, in Salt Lake, on the 31st ultimo, gives expression to that gentleman's ideas respecting the present and prospective status of the copper market. The recent decline of copper is ascribed to the war in the Transvaal, but the reaction is certain to come in a short time, for the reason that the demand is steadily greater than the supply. Mr. Clark says there is an increased demand for munitions of war into which copper largely enters. The larger navy decided upon by the Emperor of Germany will noticeably augment the demand for copper, and the German enlargement will inspire a corresponding development of the French navy, which will stimulate copper production to meet it. These causes, added to the rapid and constant development of electric railways, telephone and other systems requiring copper in multifarious forms, will inevitably maintain the upward trend of prices and promote discovery and exploitation of copper bearing mines. There is not the slightest danger of overproduction. The needs of the world will take and consume all the copper that can be extracted from all the workable mines now operated, or that can be brought into the productive stage.

In an action to determine adverse claims to a mining claim, a notice of location which described a claim as being situated in a certain county, a certain distance from another claim, and defined by courses marked by substantial monuments, readily identified by marks thereon, taken in connection with evidence that the locator discovered gold-bearing quartz, and made a monument at the place of discovery, upon which he posted his notice, shows prima facie ownership of such claim. A notice posted by the locator of a claim, that he claims 1,500 feet on a lode, will be construed to limit his claim to 750 feet along the lode on either side of the point of discovery. A notice of location of a mining claim, which by reference to natural objects and monuments erected by the locator, contains directions, which taken in connection with such objects would enable a person of ordinary intelligence to find the claim and trace its boundaries, is sufficient. Whether or not the claim can be ascertained is for the jury. Where one enters upon the mining claim of another under claim of title to same, and warns such other not to mine thereon, such conduct amounts to an ouster from the territory of the latter by the former. Bramlett vs. Flick (57 Pacific Reporter, 809; supreme court of Montana).

The following, from the Mining and Scientific Press, comes so near striking home that the SILVER BELT reproduces it for the benefit of several parties who have recently made half a million dollar sales in Arizona. The purported transfers did not take place in Gila county, and we hope, for the benefit of the mining industry of this section, and Arizona in general, no such deals will be made until something more tangible crops up as an inducement for such large investments. Fictitious mining sales, duly recorded and given publicity through the local press are a menace to the high standing of mining, and those who seek to mislead an innocent public by taking them in on the "ground floor" of gigantic swindles should be exposed. The article reads: "Among other foolish practices which of late have become particularly noticeable is the reporting of the sale of mining property in the prospective stage of development at large figures. A copper prospect previously unknown and unheard of is this week announced sold for \$700,000; other, a gold prospect, for \$300,000. Frequently these 'sales' pass the million dollar mark. There can be but one object in making these false statements, and that is to give to the property an apparent value which it does not possess, and is as bad as representing it to have large and valuable ore bodies which do not exist. These so-called sales are in most instances merely contracts to sell or buy, not binding on either side, and the actual price is usually one-tenth, one-twentieth or even one-hundredth of the price stated to the public. In most cases it is the intention of the promoter to organize a corporation and to put the property in at the price stated, generously not increasing it. The investor in such stock must necessarily buy on an inflated valuation and his chance of ever getting even, to say nothing of making anything from this investment, is very small. Since the war tax has required stamps to be affixed to these documents some have even resorted to this cheap method of deception, putting a greater number of stamps on the instrument than the transaction actually demands, carrying the impression that a large sum of money was paid for the property. These small frauds may serve their purpose in some cases, but a careful, discriminating public will in most cases understand the situation and not be deceived into believing either all they hear or see."